

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 190300Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3244

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

CINCPAC

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6406

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR

HONG KONG, SAIPAN PASS TO SENATOR FONG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, OREP

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - SENATOR FONG'S TAIPEI DEPARTURE PRESS
CONFERENCE RECEIVED FRONTPAGE TREATMENT IN ALL MAJOR
PAPERS WITH PHOTOS PLUS PROMINENT TV AND RADIO COVERAGE
STRESSING HIS REPORTED OPTIMISM REGARDING ROC'S FUTURE,
HIS CONVICTION THAT THE U.S. WILL STICK BY ITS ROC
DEFENSE COMMITMENTS AND HIS DOUBT REGARDING POSSIBLE
ROC-PRC NEGOTIATIONS GIVEN PRESENT DIFFERENCES. LARGEST-
CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS SAID SENATOR'S VISIT BROUGHT
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CONFIDE IE TO TAIWAN AND SHOULD SCOTCH FEARS OF INCREASING

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS VISITING PRC AS WELL AS TAIPEI, SINCE THEY WILL DRAW SAME COMPARISONS AS SENATOR FONG FAVORABLE TO TAIWAN. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR HIRAM FONG'S OCTOBER 17 AIRPORT DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE RECEIVED FRONTPAGE TREATMENT IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS AS WELL AS PROMINENT TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS REMARKS AS REPORTED: (1) HE IS SURE THAT UNDER PRESENTLY DIFFERING ROC-PRC POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS (2) THE U.S. WILL FIRMLY STICK BY THE U.S.-ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WHICH IS BEING EFFECTIVELY AND WISELY CARRIED OUT AS HE PERSONALLY OBSERVED (3) HE IS OPTIMISTIC OVER ROC'S FUTURE, JUDGING FROM TREMENDOUS LOCAL PROGRESS AND THE FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND PROSPERITY ENJOYED BY THE PEOPLE IN TAIWAN.

3. LARGEST-CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) COLUMNIST DAVID CHUNG SAID SENATOR'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT BROUGHT CONFIDENCE TO PEOPLE IN TAIWAN AND SHOULD SCOTCH FEARS OF INCREASING NUMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO THE MAINLAND SINCE THEY WILL SEE, AS SENATORFONG DID, THE BACKWARDNESS THERE AND COMMUNIST REPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE; IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO THINK OF THOSE WHO VISIT THE MAINLAND AS UNFRIENDLY; HENCEFORTH, ROC SHOULD WELCOME ALL WHO WISH TO VISIT BOTH SIDES TO MAKE THE COMPARISON.

4. SPECIAL ARTICLE IN INDEPENDENCE EVEING POST OCTOBER 17 SALUTED SENATOR'S UPRIGHTNESS AND HIS ADHERENCE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE IN PROTECTING ROC'S WELFARE AND MAINTAINING SINO-AMERICAN TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP ANDGOOD RELATIONSHIPS.

5. PAPERS SEPARATELY REPORTED SENATOR'S EXPRESSION OF REGRET OVER LOS ANGELES KILLING OF CHINESE STUDENT. CLARKE

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